Wherein I claim:

1. An imaging system comprising a surface for receiving an image, and a light modulator comprising a plurality of light valves in a two-dimensional array having orthogonal rows and columns in a first Cartesian coordinate system having a first and a second orthogonal axes, said columns arrayed along said first axis in the coordinate system; said rows arrayed along the second axis and a number of said rows forming a segment; and wherein said surface is transported relative to the modulator in a direction along a transport axis; wherein the first axis and the transport axis form an angle other than 90°, said angle α inversely proportional to the number of rows in the segment;

wherein the number of rows in the segment is n; n is an integer greater than 1; and the modulator comprises at least 2 segments; further wherein each light valve has an X dimension along the first axis and a Y dimension along the second axis, and X=Y and the angle $\alpha=\tan^{-1}(1/n)$.

2. The imaging system according to claim 1 wherein said angle is between about 2° and 45°.

3. The imaging system according to claim 1 further comprising a radiant energy source and at least one lens for directing said radiant energy onto said modulator.

4. The imaging system according to claim 1 further comprising at least one lens for directing said radiant energy onto said surface.

5. The imaging system according to claim 1 wherein said surface comprises a printing plate.

6. The imaging system according to claim 1 wherein said surface comprises an image detecting element.

7. The imaging system according to claim 6 wherein said image detecting element is a photosensitive layer.

8. The imaging system according to claim 1 wherein said image detecting element is a plurality of photosensitive elements.

9. The imaging system according to claim 1 wherein said imaging surface is an image display surface.

10. The imaging system according to claim 1 further comprising a modulator controller connected to said modulator for turning on and off any selected number of light valves in said light valve array.

11. The imaging system according to claim 10 further comprising a transporter for transporting said surface in a plane defined by said first coordinate system in the transport direction.

12. The imaging system according to claim 11 further including means for synchronizing said surface transporter and said modulator controller to repeatedly expose a same selected area on said surface using light valves in different light valve rows thereby to effect cumulative exposure of a desired surface area.

13. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the surface for receiving an image is wrapped around a cylindrical drum which rotates in the transport direction.

14. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the surface for receiving an image is positioned on a flatbed.

15. The imaging system of claim 1 further comprising a transport head that transports the light valve array, and wherein the imaging surface is a cylindrical drum and the transport head rotates around the cylindrical drum in the transport direction.

16. The imaging system according to claim 1 further comprising:

(a) a source of radiation and an optical projection system for directing at least a portion of said radiation onto said modulator and therefrom onto said surface; and

(b) a scanning means for scanning said radiation on said surface.

17. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the light modulator is selected from the group consisting of an optical switch, a MEMS device, an electro-holographic device, an acousto-optic device, a liquid crystal display device, a Bragg grating device, a bubblejet device, a thermo-optic interferrametric device and a thermo capillary device.

18. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the surface for receiving an image is selected from the group consisting of a photosensitive surface, a display screen, a circuit board, and a radiation detection device.

19. A method of imaging using the imaging system of claim 1 wherein the light valves provide radiation below the exposure threshold of the image receiving surface.

20. An method of imaging comprising:

(A) positioning a surface for receiving an image at a focal point of a light modulator;

said light modulator comprising a plurality of light valves in a two-dimensional array having orthogonal rows and columns in a first Cartesian coordinate system having a first and a second orthogonal axes, said columns arrayed along said first axis in the coordinate system; said rows arrayed along the second axis;

(B) forming a segment comprising a number of said rows;

(C) activating said light valves;

(D) transporting said surface relative to the modulator in a direction along a transport axis, wherein the first axis and the transport axis form an angle α other than 90°, said angle α inversely proportional to the number of rows in the segment;

wherein the number of rows in the segment is n; n is an integer greater than 1; and the modulator comprises at least 2 segments;

further wherein each light valve has an X dimension along the first axis and a Y dimension along the second axis, and X=Y and the angle $\alpha = \tan^{-1}(1/n)$.